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SOWERBY BRIDGE  
Urban District Council

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# **Annual REPORT**

of the

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH**

(S. H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.)

and the

**CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR**

(Wm. E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.)

for the year

**1970**

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Urban District Council

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URBAN DISTRICT OF SOWERBY BRIDGE

1970-71

Chairman of the Council:

Councillor A.G. GREENWOOD, J.P.

Vice-Chairman of the Council:

Councillor C.F. BEVERLEY

Members of the Council:

Coun. D. Asquith

" T. Asquith

" G.A. Benbow, J.P.

" G.P. Dyson

" G. Earnshaw

" Mrs. E. Gaskell, J.P.

" Mrs. E.M. Godfrey

" L.E. Godfrey

" C. Grenshaw

" Mrs. E. Hellawell

" F. Heyworth

Coun. C. Holt

" T. Inwood

" G. Kitson

" T.H. Longbottom

" F.W.T. Ogden

" A. Pettengell

" Mrs. D.M. Pettengell

" E. Pitts

" J. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. W.A. Sutcliffe

" Mrs. D. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH COMMITTEE

Members of the Health Committee:

Coun. Mrs. E. Hellawell (Chairman)

" C. Holt (Vice-Chairman)

" C.F. Beverley

" G. Earnshaw

" Mrs. E.M. Godfrey

" A. Pettengell

" Mrs. D. Wood

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF

Sowerby Bridge U.D.C.

Medical Officer of Health:

NORMAN E. GORDON, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (resigned 30.4.70)

S.H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H. (commenced 1.8.70)

Deputy Medical Officer of Health: - Vacant

M.P. MILLIGAN, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O. (Dublin), D.P.H., (Hons.) B.Sc. (Deputy M.O.H. for Brighouse) was appointed for the period 1.5.70 to 31.7.70

Chief Public Health Inspector:

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Additional Public Health Inspectors:

P. NELLIS, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

G. HARTLEY, M.R.S.H., M.P.H.I.A.

J.J. HOYLE (Student) (resigned 22.3.70)

Technical Assistant:

H. HILEY

Clerical Staff:

Miss B. GARSIDE

Miss D. CRAVEN

West Riding County Council

Preventive Medical Services: Health Division 19

Staff with duties in the Sowerby Bridge District:-

Divisional Medical Officer:

As above (M.O.H.)

Senior Departmental Medical Officer:

As above (Deputy M.O.H.)

Departmental Medical Officer, and Medical Officer to Sowerby Bridge  
Maternity and Child Welfare Clinic:

\* W.C. McKERR, M.B., B.Ch., B.A.O.



School Dental Officer:

Miss J. ROTHERA, L.D.S.

Divisional Nursing Officer:

\* C.J. BARKER, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert., Queen's Nurse

Health Visitors:

M. SOUTHWELL, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (retired 12.8.70)

\* M. HOLDSWORTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Q.D.N., H.V. Cert.

M.A. HOLMES, S.R.N., H.V. Cert.

T.M. QUANE, S.R.N., S.C.M., H.V. Cert. (commenced 28.9.70)

Tuberculosis Health Visitor:

\* B.G. NICHOLL, S.R.N.

Mental Welfare Officer:

\* R. ALLEN, R.N.M.S.

\* I.R. SISSLING

Midwives:

\* A.B. HOBSON, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse

\* I. MUSGROVE, S.C.M.

Home Nurses:

A. HOWARTH, S.R.N., S.C.M., Queen's Nurse

A. KLEINDIENST, S.R.N., R.F.N., Queen's Nurse (retired 4.9.70)

\* K. BOTTOMLEY, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

\* H. MASH, S.R.N., Queen's Nurse

M. LINGARD, S.R.N.

\* S. COX, S.R.N., B.T.A., C.R.F. (Relief Home Nurse for whole Divisional Area)  
(commenced 10.8.70)

\* Also have duties in other parts of this Division.

Clerical Staff:-

Divisional Administrative Officer:

H. MARSHALL, A.C.I.S., A.R.S.H.

Clerks:

Mrs. M. REDFERN  
Miss M.J. CROWTHER  
Miss S.M. HORSFALL  
Miss K. GILL  
K.G. HOLLAND  
Mrs. L.F. CLARKE  
Mrs. M. CRIDGE  
Miss L. NOBLE (resigned 27.11.70)  
Mrs. J. SANDERSON (resigned 31.3.70)  
Mrs. M. THACKRAY (commenced 16.3.70)  
Miss C.G. HIRST (commenced 28.9.70)  
Miss A.M. LONGBOTTOM (commenced 29.12.70)

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Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee

Consultant Staff

Chest Physician:

BERTRAM MANN, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H.

Ear, Nose and Throat Surgeon:

P.J. BATCHELOR, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (E), D.L.O.

Ophthalmic Surgeon:

S.B. DAVIES, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.O.

Orthopaedic Surgeon:

J.G. GILL, V.R.D., M.A., M.B., B.Ch., F.R.C.S., D.Obst., R.C.O.G. (to April 1970)  
J.K. OYSTON, M.B., B.S., F.R.C.S. (from October 1970)



December, 1971.

To the Chairman and Members of the Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report for 1970. I took up my appointment as Medical Officer of Health on 1st August, Dr. Gordon having returned in April to a similar post in his home area of Northern Ireland.

For some years now your Medical Officer of Health has also held the appointment of Divisional Medical Officer for the West Riding County Council's local health services and this dual role has provided a convenient and effective means of linking together, locally, his responsibilities for environmental health with the day-to-day divisional administration of the County Health Services. The present divisional unit was formed from the former Brighouse and Todmorden Divisions in October 1966, and your Medical Officer has similar functions and responsibilities in the other seven districts in the combined area.

This position has enabled the Medical Officer to take a wide view of the health problems occurring in his area in the past. During the year, however, the Local Authority Social Services Act, 1970 laid the basis of the transference of certain responsibilities of the Health Department to the new Social Services Department. Notably, these services to be transferred included the Mental Health section and the Home Help Service, which would become unified with the existing County Children's and Welfare Departments.

During the past ten years immense progress has been made in the field of Mental Health, and September 1970 saw a fitting climax in this division with the completion of the new comprehensive Training Centre at Rastrick. This magnificent Centre, which must be one of the finest in the country, was officially opened by Sir Keith Joseph on the 6th November, and provides every up-to-date facility in the care of adult and junior trainees, as well as incorporating a Special Care Unit for those with severe physical and mental handicaps. In addition to taking trainees from the immediate locality, special transport enables trainees from the Sowerby Bridge area and, indeed, as far afield as Queensbury and Mytholmroyd, to attend. A few have been admitted from adjacent divisions and when full there will be 66 adult trainees, 36 juniors and 18 in the Special Care Unit.

The vital statistics indicate a slight decline in the Registrar General's estimated mid-year population when compared with the 1969 figure, and represents a decrease of just over 5% since the 1961 census estimate. However, the birth rate for 1970 showed an appreciable increase from 17.3 per thousand in 1969 to 19.2, whilst the death rate remained very much the same, 14.7 compared with 14.8 per thousand for the previous year. Again on the credit side there were half the number of deaths in infants under 1 year old, compared with the 1969 figure, but there was a sharp rise in illegitimate births - from 30 in 1969 to 42 in 1970. Even when we allow for the increased birth rate it means that the illegitimate births as a percentage of the total live births has increased from 10% to 13% in twelve months. It is necessary, in my view, to take

careful note of the situation, particularly when it is recalled that during this period of time the operation of the Abortion Act has come into force, and the number of abortions carried out nationally is almost double with the fastest rise, it is stated, taking place in the teenage group. Clearly, in the preventive sense, this illustrates the need for education in this field along with family planning facilities, and subsequently excellent services have been established in Sowerby Bridge, in close co-operation with the Family Planning Association. This need to prevent unwanted pregnancies with education and family planning methods is all the more important, looking at the country as a whole, in view of the wide variation in the facilities provided and the interpretation of the Abortion Act from one area to another.

The number of deaths in the district remained very much the same as in 1969, and the death rate at 14.7 per thousand remains rather higher than that for the West Riding County or the country as a whole. As one would expect, diseases of the heart and circulation, including strokes, contributed by far the greatest numbers as a group of causes, although cancers of various types counted for about one in seven of all deaths.

Infectious diseases notifications point to the setback in measles control, when adverse side effects to one particular brand of vaccine led to its withdrawal, and a period of shortage of vaccine which carried over to the beginning of 1970. It is understandable that adverse publicity at the time should make the public wary, but the problems have now been overcome and the effectiveness of measles vaccination is beyond question.

An innovation in immunisation procedure was the introduction at the end of the year of German measles vaccination for schoolgirls aged between 11 and 14 years who are at risk, priority being given to the older groups initially. This procedure, it is hoped, will help to prevent the serious congenital malformations which may occur if women develop the disease in the early months of pregnancy.

In October 1970 arrangements were made to carry out the Guthrie test on all new born infants, with the kind co-operation of the pathology department of the Royal Halifax Infirmary. This is a test used to identify a condition known as phenylketonuria, the effect of which may be offset if recognised early. The Guthrie test replaces the phenistix test which is less accurate, and carried out later.

In recent years there has been an increasing trend towards closer co-operation between the local health authority services and the general practitioner services. This has taken the form, in some cases, of the family doctors sharing premises with our own staff, and the progress towards co-operation was taken a stage further towards the end of 1970 with the attachment of home nurses to specific practices on a "Community Health Team" basis. The separation of the health services into General Practitioner, Hospital and Local Authority Services has been regarded by many people for some time as being administratively clumsy and undesirable, and an attempt to close the gap between the local authority services and family doctors not only promotes the spirit of teamwork, but benefits the patient.

It would be an omission not to make special mention of the particular support given to the elderly by the continued enthusiasm of the Meals on Wheels and Luncheon Club activities, which make a vital contribution to the enjoyment as well as the care of the elderly in the area. In addition the various warden schemes, of which there were 5 where old people live in group dwellings on Council estates and receive daily supervision, and also 3 visiting wardens covering more widespread schemes, ensure that as far as possible no elderly person would pass his or her



days in loneliness and neglect. The chiropody scheme arranged for 471 patients to receive 1,966 treatments in the clinics, and a further 179 patients who were unable to attend received 861 treatments at home.

That the health of the community is dependant to a considerable degree on the environmental standards is a historical fact which is no less true today, and public awareness of the need to prevent self-poisoning by pollution in its various forms has reached a keen and determined level. The report of the Chief Public Health Inspector deals in detail with the question of housing, water supply, smoke control and other aspects of the environmental work of the Department. I am indebted to Mr. Foster and his staff for the willing assistance and co-operation given at all times. This has been particularly appreciated in dealing with suspected dysentery or food poisoning outbreaks, which has entailed considerable extra effort on behalf of the Department to identify the cause and check contacts as a matter of urgency. I would also like to thank the members of the Council and the Chief Officers for their kindness, co-operation and patience during my initiation period as Medical Officer for the district.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

S.H. BROCK, M.B., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Medical Officer of Health.

# SECTION I

## Vital Statistics

### STATISTICS

Area .. .. .	5,763
Population, Registrar-General's estimate of	
Resident Population, mid-1970 .. .. .	16,430
Population (Census, 1961) .. .. .	17,350
Number of dwellinghouses .. .. .	6,521
Rateable Value (1.4.70) .. .. .	£ 396,992
Estimated Product of a Penny Rate (year 1970-71) .. .. .	£ 1,535

### Summary of Vital Statistics

	Total	M	F	
Live Births	315	153	162	Birth Rate per 1,000 population: 19.2
Still Births	4	2	2	Rate per 1,000 total (live & still) births: 13
Total Live & Still Births	319	155	164	
Deaths of infants				Infant mortality rate per 1,000 live births:
Under 1 year (total)	6	4	2	total 19
Under 1 year (legitimate)	4	2	2	legitimate 15
Under 1 year (illegitimate)	2	2	-	illegitimate (per 1,000 illegitimate live births) 48
Under 4 weeks	3	3	-	Neo-natal mortality rate 10
Under 1 week	3	3	-	Early neo-natal mortality rate 10
Illegitimate Live Births	42	18	24	Percentage of total live births: 13
Maternal Deaths (associated with pregnancy or child-birth)	-	-	-	Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births: Nil
All Deaths	242	119	123	Death Rate per 1,000 population: 14.7

CAUSES OF DEATH IN SOWERBY BRIDGE U.D.

										1970	
										M	F
B 4	Enteritis and Other Diarrhoeal Diseases	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 19 (1)	Malignant Neoplasm, Buccal Cavity, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 19 (3)	Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 19 (4)	Malignant Neoplasm, Intestine	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
B 19 (5)	Malignant Neoplasm, Larynx	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 19 (6)	Malignant Neoplasm, Lung Bronchus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	-
B 19 (7)	Malignant Neoplasm, Breast	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
B 19 (8)	Malignant Neoplasm, Uterus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 19 (10)	Leukaemia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
B 19 (11)	Other Malignant Neoplasms	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	7
B 21	Diabetes Mellitus	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
B 23	Anaemias	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (2)	Other diseases of blood, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 46 (5)	Other diseases of Nervous System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 26	Chronic Rheumatic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	3
B 27	Hypertensive Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	3
B 28	Ischaemic Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37	33
B 29	Other forms of Heart Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	5	7
B 30	Cerebrovascular Disease	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	21
B 46 (6)	Other Diseases of Circulatory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7	6
B 31	Influenza	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 32	Pneumonia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	13	12
B 33 (1)	Bronchitis and Emphysema	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6	3
B 33 (2)	Asthma	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 46 (7)	Other Diseases of Respiratory System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 34	Peptic Ulcer	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	1
B 36	Intestinal Obstruction and Hernia	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	1
B 37	Cirrhosis of Liver	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
B 46 (8)	Other Diseases of Digestive System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	2
B 46 (11)	Diseases of Musculo-Skeletal System	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
B 42	Congenital Anomalies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3	1
B 43	Birth Injury, Difficult Labour, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
BE 47	Motor Vehicle Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	2
BE 48	All other Accidents	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	-	3
BE 49	Suicide and Self-Inflicted Injuries	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1	-
BE 50	All other External Causes	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2	-
										<hr/>	
										119	123
										<hr/>	

## Principal Vital Statistics for the year 1970

Based on Registrar General's Figures

	Sowerby Bridges U.D.	Rippon- den U.D.	Hebden Royd U.D.	Hepton R.D.	Todmor- den M.B.	Aggregate W. Riding U.D.	W. Riding Admin. County	England and Wales (Provisional Figures)
BIRTH RATE:- (per 1,000 estimated population) .. ..	20.5	14.2	17.9	13.6	18.3	17.6	17.5	16.0
DEATH RATES:- (All per 1,000 estimated home population)								
All Causes .. ..	14.7	16.3	15.3	12.2	14.3	13.0	12.7	11.7
Tuberculosis of respiratory system .. ..	-	-	0.11	0.29	0.13	0.02	0.02	0.02
Other forms of tuberculosis .. ..	-	-	-	0.29	-	0.01	0.01	0.01
Cancer .. ..	2.13	2.80	3.89	2.31	2.12	2.29	2.14	2.39
Vascular lesions of nervous system .. ..	2.07	3.00	2.75	2.59	1.52	1.89	1.75	+ +
Heart and circulatory diseases * .. ..	5.45	7.20	7.33	4.90	6.68	4.76	4.44	+ +
Respiratory Diseases:- ** (excluding tuberculosis of respiratory system)	2.25	3.40	1.83	1.15	2.71	1.82	1.69	+ +
INFANT MORTALITY:- (Deaths under one year per 1,000 live births)	19.0	50.0	15.6	-	34.6	19.5	19.8	18.2
MATERNAL MORTALITY:- (Deaths of mothers associated with pregnancy or childbirth per 1,000 live and still births)	-	-	-	-	-	0.36	0.29	0.18

\* Combined death rate from heart disease and other diseases of the circulatory system.

\*\* Combined death rate from influenza, pneumonia, bronchitis and other respiratory diseases, excluding tuberculosis of the respiratory system.

+ + Figures not available.



## SECTION 11

### GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES

#### (A) Hospitals

There is no hospital in Sowerby Bridge. Patients requiring hospital treatment are referred as a rule to hospitals under the administration of the Halifax Area Hospitals Management Committee (National Health Service). Included in this group are the Halifax General Hospital, Royal Halifax Infirmary, St. John's Hospital (for the aged and chronic sick), Northowram Hall Hospital for Infectious Diseases, Todmorden Fielden Hospital and Todmorden Stansfield View Hospital (for mentally subnormal patients).

Maternity beds are available at the Halifax General Hospital. Priority in booking is given to abnormal cases, mothers expecting their first child, and mothers with unsatisfactory home conditions.

Special hospitals (e.g. Mental Hospitals, special Orthopaedic Hospitals, Tuberculosis Sanatoria, etc.) outside the Halifax area are available when required; they are situated in various parts of the so-called "Leeds Hospitals Region" which in fact extends into all three Ridings.

#### (B) Ambulance Service

The County Ambulance Service covers this district through the Group Control at Birkenshaw and the Divisional Depot at Brighouse, and may be contacted by telephone - Bradford 682211, or Halifax 62191. Arrangements also exist with the Halifax County Borough Health Department for the use of their ambulances for the transfer of patients to and from the hospitals in Halifax.

#### (C) Laboratory Facilities

These are provided by the Public Health Laboratory Services, at laboratories in Wakefield and Bradford, and by the Regional Blood Transfusion Service at Leeds. There are also facilities for the examination of clinical specimens, including cervical smears, at the Royal Halifax Infirmary.

#### (D) Issue of Anti-Toxin, etc.

Supplies of diphtheria and tetanus anti-toxin are available at the Northowram Hall Hospital and the Royal Halifax Infirmary for issue to medical practitioners requiring them. By arrangement with the Regional Hospital Board, supplies of tetanus anti-toxin are also kept at the Divisional Health Office, The Medical Centre, Todmorden, for the use of local medical practitioners in the Division.

## W.R.C.C. PREVENTIVE HEALTH SERVICES

## (A) Clinics and Treatment Centres

Infant Welfare:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

Tuesdays

Thursdays

The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot

Fridays

3 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Ante-Natal and Post-Natal:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

Mondays

Cervical Cytology:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

By appointment

Chiropody (for Pensioners, etc.)

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot

By appointment

Dental Clinic:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

By appointment

School Clinics:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

(a) Ophthalmic

(b) Ear, Nose and Throat

As required

Smallpox Vaccination:Diphtheria Immunisation:Tetanus Immunisation:Whooping Cough Immunisation:Polio-myelitis Vaccination:

Allan House, Sowerby Bridge

The Civic Centre, Luddenden Foot

At Clinic Sessions by arrangement with Medical Officer.

(B) Care of Mothers and Young Children

Sowerby Bridge Ante-Natal Clinic:

Number of expectant mothers attending during the year	..	..	..	..	79
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	357

Child Welfare Clinics:

Total number of children who attended during the year	..	..	..	..	685
Total number of attendances	..	..	..	..	4,040

Home Visiting of Infants:

Total number of live births to Sowerby Bridge mothers	..	..	..	..	315
Number of first visits to children under 1 year	..	..	..	..	274
Total number of first visits to children aged 1-2 years	..	..	..		217
Total number of first visits to children aged 2-5 years	..	..	..		370

Provision of Welfare Foods, etc.:

National dried milk, cod liver oil, orange juice, etc., are distributed at the Centres, and a variety of brands of dried milk and other infant foods are also sold at the Child Welfare Centres for the convenience of mothers.

Care of Premature Infants:

Special equipment and nursing staff is available for use in the home in cases requiring them. Portable incubators are available at both the Halifax and Brighouse Ambulance Stations, should it be necessary to transfer a premature infant to hospital.

Provision of Maternity Outfits:

These are provided free to mothers preparing for confinement in their own homes.

(C) Professional Nursing in the Home

The County Council are responsible for the home nursing and midwifery services in Sowerby Bridge. There were 5 full-time Home Nurses and 2 full-time Midwives employed in 1970. 3 of the Home Nurses and both Midwives, however, did not work wholly in the Sowerby Bridge area, also having duties in other parts of the Divisional area.

Midwifery Service:

Number of home confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	81
Number of hospital confinements	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	236

The Sowerby Bridge midwives are trained in the administration of both trilene and gas and air analgesia, and are provided with the necessary equipment. Analgesia is available to all mothers desiring it, subject to satisfactory medical examination by a doctor.



#### (D) Health Visiting

The duties of the Health Visitor are combined with those of School Nurse. In pursuance of the National Health Service Act the scope of this service includes home visiting for the purpose of giving advice as to the care of children, and persons (including adults) suffering from illness, and of expectant and nursing mothers. The Health Visitor also gives advice in the home as to measures necessary to prevent the spread of infection.

#### (E) Home Helps

The recruitment of suitable women to be Home Helps again proved to be difficult. During 1970, 147 cases were attended by Home Helps as compared with 152 cases the previous year, and the total number of hours worked was 14,826.

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, the County Council provides domestic help for households "where such help is required owing to the presence of any person who is ill, lying-in, an expectant mother, mentally defective, aged, or a child not over compulsory school age."

There were 146 cases of chronic illness, and 1 maternity case.

#### (F) Care and After Care

Special provisions are in operation for the care and after care of patients suffering from tuberculosis, mental illness or subnormality, venereal disease, and other illness.

##### Tuberculosis

A full-time tuberculosis health visitor is employed in the Division. She attends the chest clinic at the Halifax Royal Infirmary, and has helped to forge a valuable link with the hospital services. She is also responsible for visiting patients at home and helps to trace and supervise their contacts. In 1970 visits were paid to 76 households in the Division.

##### Mental Health Service in Division 19 in 1970

###### (a) Mental Illness

Number of patients in the Division referred to Mental Welfare										
Officers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	306
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,										
Section 5 (voluntary admission)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	61
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,										
Section 25, for observation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,										
Section 26, for treatment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959,										
Section 29 (emergency admission)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	14

(a) Mental Illness (continued)

Number admitted to hospital under the Mental Health Act, 1959, Section 60 (from Court) .. .. .	-
Number of visits made to mentally ill patients .. .. .	1,534

(b) Care of Subnormal Patients

Number of patients attending day training centres .. .. .	38
Number awaiting places in training centres .. .. .	-
Number of patients in hospitals .. .. .	68
Number awaiting admission to hospital .. .. .	-
Number admitted to hospital for short stay care in 1970 .. .. .	3
Number receiving care from the local health authority .. .. .	66
Number of visits paid to subnormal cases .. .. .	300

(G) School Health Service

Number of schools in district .. .. .	17
Number of children in attendance at school at end of 1970 .. .. .	3,012
Number of children examined at school during 1970 .. .. .	680
this figure being made up as follows:-	
Routine examination .. .. .	310
Re-examination .. .. .	370
Number of children referred for treatment .. .. .	48

(H) Immunisation and Vaccination

In accordance with the National Health Service Act, immunisation and vaccination of school and pre-school children may be done either at the clinic or by the family doctor.

SECTION IV

INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Summary of Notifications received in year 1970

Disease	Total cases notified
Scarlet Fever .. .. .	1
Whooping Cough .. .. .	-
Acute Poliomyelitis .. .. .	-
Measles .. .. .	223
Diphtheria .. .. .	-
Dysentery .. .. .	8
Meningococcal Infection .. .. .	-
Acute Pneumonia .. .. .	-

Disease	Total cases notified									
Smallpox .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Acute Encephalitis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Enteric or Typhoid Fever .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Paratyphoid Fevers .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Erysipelas .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Food Poisoning .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Puerperal Pyrexia .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Ophthalmic Neonatorum .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
Infective Jaundice .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Pulmonary Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1
Other forms of Tuberculosis .. .. .	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..
										236

### Tuberculosis

The following table gives at a glance the position regarding tuberculosis  
in Sowerby Bridge in 1970

	Respiratory			Non-Respiratory			Totals
	M	F	Total	M	F	Total	
Number on Register on 1st January 1970 .. ..	33	10	43	2	1	3	46
Number first notified during 1970 .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Number of cases restored to Register .. .. .	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Number of cases added to Register other than by notification .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
Number removed from Register during 1970:-							
(a) Died .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
(b) Removed from district .. .. .	1	-	1	-	-	-	1
(c) Recovered .. .. .	3	3	6	2	-	2	8
Number remaining on Register, 31.12.70	30	7	37	-	1	1	38



REPORT  
of the  
CHIEF PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR  
For the year ending 31st December 1970

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To the Chairman and Members of the Sowerby Bridge Urban District Council

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you the Annual Report on (a) the sanitary conditions of the area, (b) the housing conditions including overcrowding, (c) the inspection and supervision of food, for the year ending 31st December 1970, and for the cleansing services for the financial year ending 31st March 1971.

The year has been rather an eventful one, and has again shown a considerable amount of progress in most sections of the Department. Housing has once again played a very prominent part, both in clearance and improvement. The clearance of unfit property has for the most part continued according to programme, and 71 houses have been scheduled. There is no doubt that after the completion of the present programme at the end of 1973, the vast majority of unfit properties will have been removed. A few groups of Type 1+ will still remain, and there is no doubt that from time to time a number of houses will, due to disrepair, fall into this category, but the main problem of clearance will be out of the way by 1975.

It is pleasing to note that with the Improvement Grants available, more owner-occupiers are bringing their houses up to a satisfactory standard, especially those properties in the more rural parts of the area. The number of improvement grants which have been given in this district now exceeds 1,300. In addition to these grants, which continue at a steady rate, the Council instructed the Department to embark upon the first Improvement Area in North Ward. A number of suitable areas were set out in the detailed Clearance and Improvement Report, which was submitted to the Council in 1969.

This was a most interesting assignment, as both the housing and environmental improvement in the North Ward area could be incorporated. A detailed study and inspection of the property was completed in approximately six months, after which a detailed report was prepared, and it was most disappointing to find that the Council were not prepared to go ahead with the scheme. There is no doubt that there would have been some difficulties, especially with the environmental side of the scheme. There usually are difficulties in a first scheme, but it was felt that with the co-operation of the owners and occupiers the difficulties could have been resolved, and the Council would have learned a considerable amount from this first area, which would have stood them in very good stead for subsequent Improvement Areas.

There is no doubt that many of the stone-built houses, especially the side scullery Type 2 back-to-back houses if suitably improved, could serve a very useful purpose for many years; but

if this type of property is neglected, then there is no doubt that they could turn up in ever increasing numbers in future clearance proposals. It is sincerely hoped that the owners and owner-occupiers will take the opportunity of applying for Improvement Grants to modernise these houses.

Unfortunately, some of our older citizens consider that the works will be too complicated, and consequently are not willing to undertake the improvements. But to my mind, it is the elderly people who require these improvements, especially the provision of an internal toilet. Fortunately, the Department has been very successful in improving at least one group of houses for the elderly who, although reluctant, agreed to have the improvements carried out. These were completed with the minimum of disturbance and with considerable satisfaction on all sides, and peace of mind for the owner-occupiers, knowing that they will remain undisturbed for many years to come.

One of the most noticeable improvements in the district is the effect that smoke control has had. The programme has continued as planned, and now more than 60% of the houses are in smoke control areas, and it is anticipated that the whole area will be covered by 1974. It is pleasing to report that the Council did not need to apply to the Ministry in the early part of the year for a suspension of Smoke Control Orders in the district. Many Local Authorities took this action, due to shortage of solid smokeless fuels in their districts. However, by close and continuous contact and co-operation with the manufacturers and with local fuel merchants, this situation was avoided in Sowerby Bridge. Little difficulty was experienced by anyone requiring supplies of smokeless fuels.

Perhaps one of the most disturbing features of the year was the industrial dispute involving all the employees of the Cleansing Department, who were out on strike for three weeks. One rather serious aspect of the strike from the men's point of view was the fact that only members of the Cleansing Department were brought out. All other employees of the Authority continued to work normally. This resulted in a rather serious financial loss to one section only of the manual workers, and this was rather a bitter pill to swallow. The improvement in wages and conditions in the main was due in no small measure to their efforts, resulting in all sections benefitting from their action.

During the strike, the tip was open at all times and approximately 10,000 paper and plastic sacks were issued from various centres to the general public. This was greatly appreciated, and whilst the strike caused a considerable amount of inconvenience, it was pleasing to note that no dumps were created and that the tips and other disposal points were used to a considerable extent. It was also very pleasing to note that when the men did return to work, normal rounds were resumed and the complete backlog of work was cleared in fourteen days.

During the year preliminary talks were started on an incinerator project for the Halifax and Calder Valley, and by the year end talks were well advanced with the suggestion of the appointment of consultants to carry out a feasibility study in all areas. It was evident from the discussion, that whilst Halifax had adequate tipping facilities for many years, many of the smaller Authorities would find difficulty in disposing of refuse by controlled tipping after 2-3 years. Sowerby Bridge were also in this position, as only a small portion of the tip now remains for completion, a considerable portion having been completed and handed over to the Parks Department for commencement of Phase 1 of the scheme for conversion of this area to playing fields, which is hoped to be started during next year.



The private water supplies continue to diminish, with the extension of the public supply. During the year, work on the extension of water to both Blackwood Hall, Luddenden Foot, and Towngate, Midgley, was commenced, and only one large extension remains in this area, that being at Higham and Dob, Sowerby. It is hoped that this extension will not be long delayed.

Other duties undertaken by the Department are covered in the report under their separate headings.

The Department has been fortunate to retain its staff over the year, and I think it is agreed that a continuity of staff is very important, and that the successful working of any Health Department depends not only on good teamwork, but also on the wide local knowledge of the general conditions.

May I, in conclusion, thank the Chairman, Councillor Mrs. E. Hellawell, and the Members of the Public Health Committee, for their support and assistance; also the Medical Officer of Health, for his help and support in the many complex problems which have arisen from time to time.

My thanks are due to the Additional Public Health Inspectors, Mr. P. Nelliis and Mr. G. Hartley; and to the Technical Officer, Mr. H. Hiley, who has dealt with the problems under the Clean Air Act; also to the Clerical Staff, Miss B. Garside and Miss D. Craven, who have been responsible for the setting out of the reports and the general clerical work of the Department. May I also record my thanks to the Foreman, Mr. F. Croad, and the Employees of the Cleansing Department, who have carried out the objectionable work of collection and disposal of refuse in such a satisfactory manner.

My thanks are also due to the Officials of the Council, and the Calderdale Water Board, who have so kindly co-operated in supplying general information for this report.

I remain, Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours respectfully,

W.E. FOSTER, A.M.I.P.H.E., M.P.H.I.A.

Chief Public Health Inspector.

## SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA

### WATER SUPPLIES

#### Public Supply

The public water supply for the majority of the urban district is supplied by the Calderdale Water Board, and by arrangement with the Board, parts of the Ryburn Valley are supplied by the Wakefield and District Water Board.

The approximate number of houses connected to the public supplies at the end of the year is 6,036, being 92.6% of the total number of houses in the urban district. These are supplied as follows:-

Calderdale Water Board - Halifax Reservoirs	..	..	..	5,846
Wakefield and District - Ripponden Reservoirs	..	..	..	190

During the year, the mains extensions at Quarry Hill housing site were completed, being an additional 155 yds. of 4" AC main (370 yds. total length). The extensions to Saw Hill and Ivy Houses, Triangle, have also been completed, being an additional 600 yds. of 4" AC main (1,078 yds. total).

The mains extension at Blackwood Hall was commenced in 1970. This comprises 820 yds. of 4" AC main, which will serve 49 houses. This work is still in progress at the year end.

At Towngate, Midgley, a 450 yds. length of 4" AC main has been installed (which connects with a new extension in Hebden Royd U.D., incidentally). This extends from the Council estate at Yew Trees, Midgley, to the U.D. boundary at Scout Head and thence to new private development in Midgley Road, Mytholmroyd. The portion within Sowerby Bridge urban district will enable 43 more houses to be converted from unsatisfactory spring supplies. The work of connecting these houses is proceeding at the year end.

The public supplies have been highly satisfactory in all respects, and are sampled occasionally.

However, as in previous years, it has been found that certain blocks of houses are experiencing a shortage of supply due to an old joint service pipe which is now quite inadequate for the increased demand for water resulting from installations of bathrooms and hot water systems, etc. Each house should, of course, be supplied direct from the mains. The cost of the new connection is the direct responsibility of the owner of the house, who is often reluctant to have the work done. It has been found necessary in certain cases to make the new service pipe a condition of standard and improvement grants, and there is a case to be made for this work to be eligible for standard grant aid if the present legislation could be so amended.

## Private Supplies

In addition to the completion of the mains extension, approval of grant was obtained under the Rural Water Supplies and Sewerage Acts for extensions at Blackwood Hall and Midgley, as outlined above, and these works were commenced during the year. As stated in the Annual Report for 1969, these schemes were originally refused for grant purposes, but were re-submitted by the Council with certain amendments, and were finally approved.

The following table sets out the number of houses still dependant upon private water supplies, and the decrease in these numbers over the years, largely as a result of the Council's efforts. There are still 485 houses on private supplies in the area; these are mostly serving isolated farmhouses and very small blocks of property, although an application for grant is in course of preparation for the Higham and Dob and Steep Lane areas of Sowerby, covering 32 houses. There is also an extension required to cover the remainder of Blackwood Hall (45 houses) which will not be eligible for grant however, as it is not classed as a rural area.

Year	No. of Houses on a Private Supply	Percentage of total
1960	1,387	21 %
1961	1,246	19.5 %
1962	1,230	19 %
1963	1,164	17 %
1964	1,023	14.9 %
1965	869	12.8 %
1966	758	11.2 %
1967	691	9.2 %
1968	596	8.8 %
1969	529	7.7 %
1970	485	7.4 %

The above private supplies are regularly checked and surveyed when necessary.

During 1970, 57 samples of water have been obtained for bacteriological examination, of which 43 were unsatisfactory. Certain of these supplies will shortly be replaced by mains water. Details of the samples are set out below:-

District	Bacteriological Examination		
	Sat.	U/Sat.	Total
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	0	12	12
Midgley and Luddenden .. .. .	7	12	19
Triangle and Mill Bank .. .. .	2	5	7
Sowerby .. .. .	4	14	18
Calderdale Water Board .. .. .	1	-	1
Totals ..	14	43	57



In addition to these samples, 9 were obtained for chemical analysis and mineral analysis, and 1 for plumbo-solvency; 7 of which were unsatisfactory, being aggressive to metals.

Where these supplies are found to be excessively plumbo-solvent, or to attack fittings on hot water supplies, every effort is made to persuade the owners to replace the metal concerned with one which is not subject to attack. Upon enquiry, no evidence of any ill-effects has been observed amongst the users of these supplies, fortunately.

#### Drainage and Sewerage

The sewers of the district serve approximately 6,163 houses, but there are approximately 363 that rely on cesspools, septic tank drainage and the like. The majority of these have a satisfactory means of disposal, but unfortunately some still rely on unsatisfactory drainage to fields, although such instances are fast disappearing.

During the year work was started on a new surface water sewer at Mirey Lane, Sowerby and at the end of the year, although not complete, the work was progressing satisfactorily.

The unsewered areas in the district are likely to remain so, but where improvements are taking place, both suitable and sufficient septic tank drainage is being provided, and if this method is properly maintained it is quite satisfactory and accepted by the Rivers Board.

Routine maintenance has continued during the year, with the cleaning, flushing and repair of drains and sewers as necessary.

During the year there have been 209 visits in connection with defective drainage, and an additional 251 re-visits for testing, inspection in course of construction, etc. In addition to this work, 53 choked drains have been attended to under the provisions of the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, no charge being made for this work.

#### Sewage Disposal

As the sewage disposal works at Milner Royd appear to be nearing the end of their useful life, the whole problem of sewage disposal is being further considered in conjunction with neighbouring Authorities, but the final reports are still awaited. The works at High Royd, Luddenden Foot, which have again received regular maintenance throughout the year, continue to give satisfaction in every way.

#### Sanitary Accommodation

The number of pails in use in the district has continued to decrease, and now relatively few remain. Most are at isolated and single dwellings in the more rural parts of the district, where there has been no response forthcoming from the owners to the suggestion by this Department of improvements being carried out. Many visits have been made to both owners and occupiers, and it is hoped in the coming year that the reduction of this most insanitary accommodation will continue. Consideration may even have to be given to further action being taken in cases where "stubborn resistance" is continually met with, especially in respect to ending the collection



service due to the appalling nature of this task in this day and age, and having no specialised vehicle for this service, the demand for which is now rapidly diminishing.

The domestic sanitary accommodation within the district is set out as follows:-

Number of Pedestal W.C.s .. .. .	5,854
Number of Pail Closets .. .. .	39
Number of Trough or Waste Water Closets .. .. .	17
Number of Chemical Closets .. .. .	16
	<hr/>
	5,926
	<hr/>

The distribution of pails in the out-districts is indicated in the following table:-

District	Pails
Luddenden Foot .. .. .	6
Midgley and Luddenden .. .. .	9
Triangle .. .. .	5
Sowerby .. .. .	14
Norland .. .. .	5
	<hr/>
	39
	<hr/>

From these figures it will be seen that although there is still a certain amount of joint sanitary accommodation within the district, this is decreasing quite rapidly, mainly with the progress of slum clearance, and the continuing trend of dwelling improvement.

#### Factories Act, 1961

Details of the factories on the register, together with the defects found, are set out in the following tables:-

#### Inspection for purposes of provisions as to health

Factories	No. on Register	No. of Inspections	Written Notices
In which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are enforced by Local Authority .. .. .	1	1	-
Where Section 7 is enforced .. .. .	95	48	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals ..	96	49	1
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

Number with inadequate sanitary conveniences .. .. .	5
Number in need of cleaning .. .. .	6
Number requiring general modernisation .. .. .	5
Other contraventions relative to ventilation, lighting, etc. .. .. .	5
Number satisfactory .. .. .	38
Number dealt with verbally, and improved .. .. .	10
Informal action .. .. .	1

The following table sets out the factories on the register operating in the district at the end of the year:-

Bakehouses .. .. .	2
Brass Finishing .. .. .	1
Brass Foundry .. .. .	1
Carpet Manufacturers .. .. .	6
Cloth Carbonising .. .. .	3
Combworks .. .. .	1
Diecasting .. .. .	1
Dyers .. .. .	1
Dyeworks .. .. .	2
Electrical Generating and Transforming .. .. .	1
Engineering (light) .. .. .	5
Gas Holder .. .. .	1
Joiners and Cabinet Makers .. .. .	5
Leather Goods .. .. .	1
Light Steel Machinery .. .. .	1
Machine Tools .. .. .	1
Machinery Repairs .. .. .	1
Mortar Grinding .. .. .	1
Motor Vehicle Repairs .. .. .	3
Paper Baling and Sorting .. .. .	1
Pattern Making .. .. .	2
Plastic Mouldings and Compounds .. .. .	2
Plumbers .. .. .	7
Portable Buildings .. .. .	1
Printers .. .. .	1
Radio and Television Repairs .. .. .	1
Scrap Metal Yards .. .. .	3
Sheet Metal Working .. .. .	2
Shops classified as factories .. .. .	9
Sugar Confectioners .. .. .	3
Textiles - Cotton .. .. .	3
Textiles - Woollen and Worsted .. .. .	16
Textile Machinery .. .. .	1
Upholstery .. .. .	1
Waggon Sheet Repair .. .. .	1
Warehouses .. .. .	2
Wholesale Clothing .. .. .	3
Wire Manufacturers .. .. .	1

Wool Sorting (including waste, etc.) .. .. .	4
Wool Blending .. .. .	1

### Outworkers

There are 4 outworkers on the register, all of whom are engaged in textile manufacture or repair. Lists are submitted to the Council by other Authorities twice per year, under Section 110 of the Factories Act, and similar information is forwarded to neighbouring Authorities. The number of outworkers includes those engaged by factories outside the Local Authority.

### Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963

Inspections under the act have been carried out during the past year, and during which no major difficulties have arisen in enforcing the Act. Most of the contraventions have been of a comparatively minor nature, which were readily remedied after the occupier had been notified.

Whether the absence of any reports of accidents to persons working in premises covered by the Act is due to the reasonably high standard that is maintained in such premises, is a matter for conjecture, but must surely have played some large part in securing the safety, health and welfare of employees, as the Act so obviously intends. On the other hand, it is possible that accidents have not been reported, either because the occupier has not been aware of his obligation to report accidents under Section 48 of the Act, or because accidents have not been purposely reported. However, no evidence of such cases has been seen or come to light.

As can be seen from the table below, the number of new registrations totalled 7, whilst the number of premises coming within the scope of the Act dropped from last year's figure of 96 to 81, this being mainly due to 22 premises being deleted from the register as businesses were closed, the premises usually remaining unoccupied. The number of persons employed showed a corresponding fall, from 369 to 337.

### Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. of premises registered during the year	Total No. of registered premises at end of year	No. of registered premises receiving a general inspection during the year
Offices .. .. .	-	23	10
Retail Shops .. .. .	5	47	23
Wholesale Shops, Warehouses .. .. .	-	3	2
Catering Establishments open to the public, Canteens .. .. .	2	8	5
Fuel Storage Depots .. .. .	-	-	-
Totals ..	7	81	40

Total number of visits of all kinds by Inspectors to Registered

Premises under the Act .. .. . 83



# Analysis of Contraventions

Section	Number of Contraventions found	Section	Number of Contraventions found
4	Cleanliness .. .. 3	16	Floors, passage and stairs 4
5	Overcrowding .. .. Nil	17	Fencing exposed parts
6	Temperature .. .. 6		machinery .. .. Nil
7	Ventilation .. .. 3	18	Protection of young
8	Lighting .. .. 2		persons from dangerous
9	Sanitary Conveniences .. .. 6		machinery .. .. Nil
10	Washing Facilities .. .. 1	19	Training of young persons
11	Supply of Drinking Water .. Nil		working at dangerous
12	Clothing Accommodation .. .. Nil		machinery .. .. Nil
13	Sitting Facilities .. .. Nil	23	Prohibition of heavy work Nil
14	Seats (Sedentary Workers) .. Nil	24	First Aid General Provisions 4
15	Eating Facilities .. .. Nil		Other Matters 14
			Total .. .. 43

# Analysis of Persons employed in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices .. ..	105
Retail Shops .. ..	124
Wholesale Departments, Warehouses .. ..	44
Restaurants and Canteens .. ..	64
Fuel Storage Depots .. ..	-
Total ..	337
Total Males	132
Total Females	205

Exemptions: There have been no applications received for any exemptions during the year.

Prosecutions: There have been no prosecutions instituted this year, the work having been carried out informally.

Accidents: No accidents have been reported during the year.

## Public Swimming Bath

The swimming bath is used quite extensively by children and schools as well as the general public, not only from this district but also those of adjoining areas. The capacity of the bath is approximately 64,000 gallons, and the turnover of bath water with the existing equipment takes place every 4 hours. The filtering and chlorinating equipment appears to give every satisfaction, as indicated by the water sample results.

During the year, 4 samples of water have been taken from the swimming bath at the inlet and outlet, 2 for chemical and 2 for bacteriological examination. The reports received from the Public Analyst showed that all these samples of bath waters were highly satisfactory.

## Nuisances (Part 3, Public Health Act, 1936, except Smoke Nuisances)

The number of inspections for nuisances only, excluding housing inspections, was 168, and in addition 97 re-visits were made.

At the end of 1969 there were 9 informal notices outstanding. During 1970, 55 informal notices were served and 1 statutory notice, and of these, together with the 9 outstanding at the end of 1969, 58 were abated, leaving 6 informal and 1 statutory notices outstanding at the end of the year.

The statutory notice outstanding at the end of the year had been served in respect of a nuisance arising from the filthy condition of a house within the district. Informal approaches had been made many times in the previous year, with little result, and there was no other alternative but to take formal action. Before the year was out, a successful application had to be made to the Court for the issue of a nuisance order, as the abatement notice had not been complied with within the time given. The matter was still being dealt with at the year end. The number of visits and time spent on dealing with this nuisance over the past fifteen months had been quite considerable, and entirely due to the unco-operative nature of the family concerned.

Apart from such cases as this, where legal action has to be resorted to and which are, fortunately, few in number, almost all of the work relating to nuisances is carried out informally. An interview with the persons concerned is usually sufficient to secure the abatement of the notice, and therefore the above figures do not accurately reflect the time spent and the amount of work done in this respect.

## Offensive Trades

There are no offensive trades as such carried out in the district, apart from the fact that Fish Friers were included many years ago under this category. At the present time there are 18 Fish Friers, 25 visits being made to these establishments.

## Sanitary Inspection of the Area

	Visits														
Camping Sites	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Conversions	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	42
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Disinfestation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	37
Drainage, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	104
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	93
Factories	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	23
Fried Fish Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	25
Hairdressers	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	12
Houses let in Lodgings	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Infestation (except rodents)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	34
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1,021
Miscellaneous Sanitary Visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	143
Petrol Pump Inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Public Cleansing - Administration	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	123
Public Cleansing - Refuse Collection	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	117
Public Cleansing - Refuse Disposal	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Public Cleansing - Salvage	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	87
Public Conveniences	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	21
Sanitary Accommodation - Defects	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	26
Schools	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	16
Shops	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	102
Stables, Piggeries and Poultry	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	7
Sunday Trading	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Tents, Vans and Sheds	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	11
Theatres and Places of Entertainment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	4
Water Courses - Survey	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	17
Water Supplies	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	89
West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951 - Drains cleansed	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	43

## Clean Air

1970 was another year of continued progress towards the completion of the Council's smoke control area programme. 8 areas were confirmed by the end of 1969. Area No. 9 (Norland) was declared in April and confirmed in August 1970; and survey of Area No. 10 was well advanced at the year end.

At the end of 1970, approximately 4,500 (60%) of the premises in the area were in confirmed Smoke Control Areas, and it is anticipated that the whole district will be covered by the end of 1974.

There is now very little opposition to smoke control in this district. Indeed, considerable enthusiasm is evident, no doubt due to the undoubted improvement in the atmosphere of Sowerby Bridge and neighbouring towns, and the consequent benefits which can now be so easily seen.



Industrial smoke is no longer a problem, as most industrial premises have replaced their old boiler plant by modern smokeless equipment over the years. Occasionally, smoke observations are made, but there have been no serious infringements of the Regulations.

However, observations of domestic chimneys have occasionally resulted in occupiers being cautioned for burning coal in smoke control areas. These cautions have been sufficient to end the contravention.

In December, the Solid Smokeless Fuel Federation display van again visited the district, and much interest was shown in the latest appliances and the new solid fuels available.

Daily readings of atmospheric pollution levels are taken from two sites, at Wharf Street and Beech Road. This is part of a nation-wide system, involving hundreds of Local Authorities etc., and the results are compiled, processed and tabulated at Warren Spring Laboratory, and published monthly and annually.

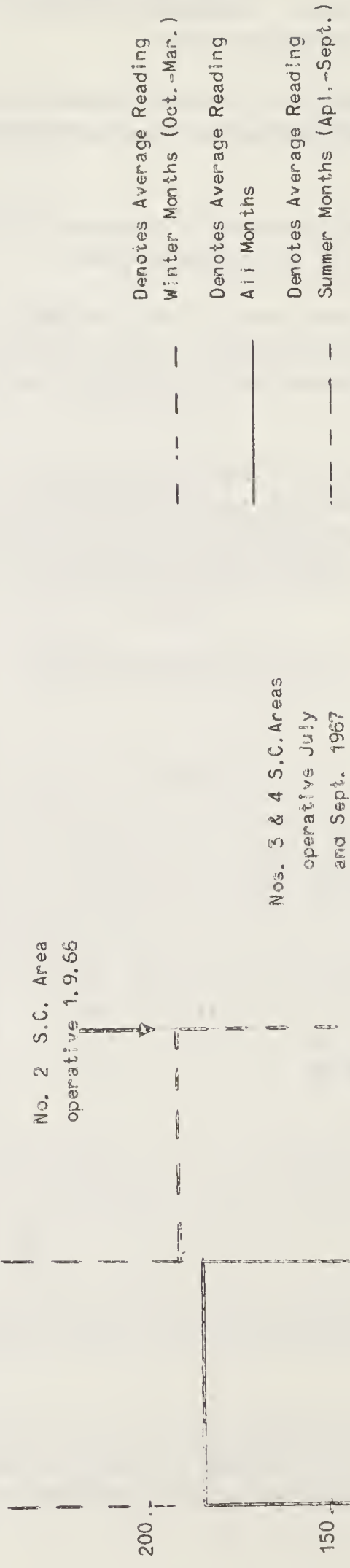
The accompanying graphs show the trend in atmospheric pollution readings (smoke) in the district over a number of years. The improvement is remarkable, and it is interesting, when comparing these figures to those from some well-known holiday resorts, for example, to note that the Sowerby Bridge figures now compare very favourably indeed. The table shows monthly levels of smoke and SO<sub>2</sub> at the two sites in 1970.

Details of the work carried out under the Clean Air Act are set out as follows:-

Postal survey and visits (No. 9 Area)	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	329
Visits re applications	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	101
Re-visits	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	107
Final inspections for payment	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	82
Inspection of Commercial Premises with living accommodation	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	9
Re-visits re installations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	39
General inspections	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	65
Smoke Observations - Domestic Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	58
Smoke Recording Stations	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	680
Interviews	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	416
Investigations re alleged condensation in Domestic Premises	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
Complaints re unauthorised burning of Industrial waste	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	15

# Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Beech Road, Sowerby Bridge

over 6 years, 1965-70



Vertical scale in Microgrammes per cubic metre

# Atmospheric Smoke measured and recorded at Wharf Street, Sowerby Bridge

over 10 years, 1961-70



Vertical scale in Microgrammes per cubic metre.

	Beech Road						Wharf Street					
	Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide			Smoke			Sulphur Dioxide		
	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF	MA	HDF	LDF
January	117	464	30	247	787	119	117	348	44	38	158	-
February	55	290	15	130	455	47	67	284	27	21	92	-
March	61	225	7	145	584	22	61	226	10	52	358	-
April	34	98	14	105	223	32	41	89	18	34	66	-
May	34	86	9	132	280	58	42	84	15	100	244	42
June	27	46	9	130	231	59	33	54	15	105	236	11k.
July	17	59	9	78	256	15	28	65	15	63	133	29
August	33	88	8	115	245	35	40	84	15	93	206	34
September	48	163	11	110	241	47	56	162	18	88	228	40
October	61	252	7	141	350	45	77	224	16	98	333	27
November	77	325	7	153	491	54	74	265	27	77	208	27
December	68	219	21	175	683	51	80	336	32	103	259	48

Explanation of Table:-

- MA - Monthly average, which is the mean of the daily figures for the month under review.  
HDF - Highest daily figure.  
LDF - Lowest daily figure.

HOUSING

The Department is responsible, under the Housing Acts, for the routine inspection and survey of houses throughout the district; for the improvement and repair of houses where practicable; and for the representation for clearance and closure of houses which are so unfit as to be beyond practicable improvement or repair. The table below summarises the general housing statistics for 1970:-

1. Approximate number of dwellinghouses in the district .. .. . 6,321
2. Number of houses included in above
  - (a) Back-to-back .. .. . 1,047
  - (b) Single back .. .. . 92
3. Houses in Clearance Areas and Unfit Houses elsewhere
  - (1) Number of houses included in Representations made during the year
    - (a) in Clearance Areas .. .. . 71
    - (b) Individual Unfit Houses .. .. . 3



(2) Clearance Areas

(a) Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	77
(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	114
(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	46

(3) Unfit Houses not in Clearance Areas

(a) Houses demolished	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

(4) Unfit Houses closed under Section 16 (4), 17 (i) and 35 (1), Housing Act, 1957, and Section 26, Housing Act, 1961

(a) Number	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3
(b) Number of Persons displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	2
(c) Number of Families displaced	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	1

(5) Unfit Houses made fit and Houses in which defects were remedied

After informal action by Local Authority

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	151
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After formal notice under Public Health Acts

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

After formal notice under Sections 9 and 16, Housing Act, 1957

By Owner	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
By Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

4. Number of Families re-housed during the year into Council Houses

(a) Clearance Areas, etc.	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	24
(b) Overcrowding	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	3

5. Rent Act, 1957

(a) Number of Certificates of Disrepair granted	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(b) Number of Undertakings to execute repairs given by owners to the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
(c) Number of Certificates of Disrepair cancelled	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0

6. New Dwellings

Number of dwellings completed during the year

By the Local Authority	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	0
By Private Enterprise	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	19

## 7. Grants for conversion or improvement of housing accommodation

### (a) Conversions

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	2
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	2
(3) Number of dwellings completed	..	..	..	..	..	2

### (b) Improvements

(1) Applications received (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	101
(2) Applications approved (number of dwellings)	..	..	..	..	..	96
(3) Number of dwellings completed	..	..	..	..	..	93

In Section (b), (1) can be divided into 30 Improvement Grants and 71 Standard Grants, 28 of the former being approved, and 68 of the latter. The number of dwellings completed during the year included certain houses where application had been made in previous years.

## 8. Details of advances for the purpose of acquiring or constructing houses

The Council operate the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, and during the year 23 advances were made. In addition, 12 improvement loans were made.

### Housing Improvement

Now that the worst of the unfit property has been cleared in this district and elsewhere the emphasis is shifting more and more to area improvement. There are in most old town neighbourhoods where improvement is required on a large scale to halt the deterioration of the area.

Sowerby Bridge has a good record regarding individual improvement grants and standard grants; 95 individual Improvement Grants and Standard Grants were completed during the year, bringing the total since 1949 to over 1,000. Almost 20% of the private houses in the district have now been improved with the help of these grants.

The inspectors carried out surveys in 1969, and suggested 11 areas for consideration as General Improvement Areas and early in 1970, at the request of the Council a detailed analysis of one particular area was presented to the Council. This was in the area bounded by Albert Road / Burnley Road / Beech Road and Tuel Lane which, it was suggested, would be an ideal first Improvement Area to show quick and worthwhile results, as many of the owners concerned seemed to favour such a scheme. Unfortunately, the Council decided not to continue with the plan, and at the end of 1970 no Improvement Area has been declared. It is nonetheless pleasing to note that a great many individual owners from the above area have applied for grants, following the Inspectors' visits. The Government grant aided environmental improvement will not be forthcoming in this case to augment these voluntary improvements, of course.

Surveys and inquiries continue into the possibility of other improvement areas however.



## Clearance of Unfit Houses

Although over 1,300 unfit houses have now been dealt with in clearance areas, and over 1,000 Improvement grants completed, there remain approximately 400-500 other unfit houses which appear unsuitable for Improvement, falling short of the requirements of the Housing Act, and which will be represented for clearance.

During 1970, 8 clearance areas were declared, consisting of 71 houses, details of which are set out below. 7 areas were confirmed by the Ministry during the year, and confirmation is awaited for 6 outstanding areas. 77 houses in confirmed clearance areas were demolished during the year.

Details of clearance procedure during 1970 are set out below:-

Central Ward (No. 1) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Hollins Mill Lane) ..	2 houses
Central Ward (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Stubbins, Beech Road) ..	7 houses
North Ward (No. 3) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Rose Mount) .. .. .	11 houses
North Ward (No. 4) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Hill Top) .. .. .	12 houses
Luddenden Foot Ward (No. 5) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (23-26 Lower Water Hill) ..	4 houses
North Ward (No. 6) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (1-15 Lower Water Hill) ..	12 houses
North Ward (No. 7) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Steps Lane, Burnley Road)..	13 houses
Central Ward (No. 8) Compulsory Purchase Order, 1970 (Industrial Place/Road) ..	10 houses

Only one objection to the Council's clearance orders was received, this was in respect of one house in Central Ward (No. 2) Compulsory Purchase Order, as a result of which a Public Inquiry is to be held early in 1971. Generally speaking, there is very little opposition to Clearance Area action when compared with ten years ago, when the majority of Clearance Orders were contested. No doubt this is due partly to increasing dissatisfaction with old and obsolete housing. Possibly also the increased rates of compensation now payable are another factor.

## Closure of Unfit Houses

3 houses were closed after action under Section 16 of the Housing Act, 1957. It was not practicable to demolish these houses at the time.

## Future Clearance Programme

The Department keeps an up-to-date schedule of property which is considered unfit and not suitable for improvement. This is amended and revised slightly from time to time in the light of Government legislation, and occasionally when the deterioration observed in a particular block of houses is checked or reversed. On the other hand, it sometimes happens that there is a sudden marked deterioration in a block not previously included, which must then be added to the programme.

The suggested programme is taken before the Council regularly for approval, together with any revisions and additions. At the end of 1970, there were 283 houses earmarked for clearance action in 1971-72-73, and a further 300 approximately to be dealt with in ensuing years. There



will always be a number of houses coming to the end of their useful life, of course, and so a certain amount of clearance and demolition will always be going on in older towns such as Sowerby Bridge, although not at the high rate of recent years.

### Overcrowding

Although occasional cases arise, these are promptly dealt with informally, and overcrowding is not now the problem it was in the immediate post-war years.

### Advances for House Purchase

Advances are made by the Council under the Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts, for the purchase of houses for owner-occupation. These are usually the older type of terrace houses which would not attract a Building Society mortgage. During 1970, 23 advances (totalling £19,850) were made for this purpose, together with 12 improvement loans (totalling £5,163).

### Re-Building

19 houses were completed in the district during 1970, all of which were built by private enterprise. The following statistics regarding new houses erected, houses cleared, and population trends since 1950, are of interest.

Table of Houses erected in the Urban District over the past 21 years:

Year	Houses Erected		Total	Houses Condemned	Population
	By Local Authority	By Private Enterprise			
1950	22	-	22	-	19,040
1951	16	2	18	-	18,770 (census)
1952	12	-	12	-	18,660
1953	40	-	40	-	18,530
1954	58	-	58	-	18,500
1955	52	-	52	-	18,430
1956	28	-	28	-	18,260
1957	17	-	17	-	18,170
1958	-	-	-	47	18,140
1959	31	2	33	41	17,940
1960	3	12	15	53	17,870
1961	24	18	42	166	17,350 (census)
1962	12	13	25	55	17,330
1963	97	-	97	122	17,320
1964	86	4	90	257	17,150
1965	203	24	227	173	16,930
1966	135	4	139	112	16,690
1967	186	29	215	22	16,600
1968	32	1	33	123	16,700
1969	5	3	8	101	16,610
1970	-	19	19	71	16,430
	1,059	131	1,190	1,343	

## General Housing Inspection

	Visits
Public Health Acts, 1936-61 (Housing) .. .. .	17
Re-visits .. .. .	9
Housing Act, 1957 .. .. .	167
Re-visits .. .. .	83
Miscellaneous Housing .. .. .	214
Re-visits .. .. .	103
Housing Survey for Clearance, etc., and Improvement .. .. .	461
Inspection of Individual Unfit Houses .. .. .	10
Clearance Area sites .. .. .	36
Rent Act, 1957, and Qualification Certificate applications .. .. .	17
Improvement Grant visits .. .. .	86
Small Dwellings Acquisition Acts .. .. .	27
Overcrowding .. .. .	8

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD

### Meat Inspection

The one private slaughterhouse in the district was voluntarily closed by the owner early in 1970, and the quantities in the following table are consequently much smaller than in previous years.

All the meat examined was of good quality, with only minor parasitic conditions and superficial injuries found. There were no cases of tuberculosis, cysticercosis or generalised disease encountered.

The very small quantity of meat which is condemned (or voluntarily surrendered from butchers' shops) is marked with a conspicuous dye and immediately buried on the Council's controlled tip at Meareclough.

Details of the carcasses inspected at the slaughterhouse are set out in the following table. 44 visits were made for this purpose.

	Cattle	Calves	Sheep	Pigs
Number killed .. .. .	38	3	26	-
Number inspected .. .. .	38	3	26	-
All diseases except Tuberculosis and Cysticerci:				
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	10	-	3	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci .. .. .	26.3	-	11.5	-
Tuberculosis only:				
Whole carcasses condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis:				
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Carcasses submitted to treatment by refrigeration .. .. .	-	-	-	-
Generalised and totally condemned .. .. .	-	-	-	-

#### Slaughter of Animals Act, 1958

Licences have been issued to 6 slaughtermen, under the above Act.

#### Slaughter of Poultry

There is no registered poultry processing establishment in the district, although spasmodic slaughtering of poultry undoubtedly occurs at Christmas time. This is an offence, of course, unless the appropriate Regulations as regards hygienic practices and premises, etc. are complied with.

#### Unsound Food - Surrendered or Condemned

As in previous years, a considerable amount of unsound food has been examined and condemned during the year, from the shops and food warehouse in the district.



Much of this food is picked out for our inspection by the food handlers, which speaks well for their training in food hygiene. There were again instances of deep freeze failures or power cuts which were responsible for quantities of frozen food being surrendered.

The following is a list of tinned and packaged foods condemned as unfit for human consumption during 1970:-

	Tons	Cwts.	Qtrs.	Lbs.	Ozs.
Meat .. .. .		8	2	20	13
Vegetables .. .. .	1	16	3	4	8
Fruit .. .. .		10	2	23	14
Soup .. .. .		17	3	17	6
Rice .. .. .		5	1	1	1
Sago .. .. .			2	19	12
Custard .. .. .			1	1	4
Milk .. .. .		2	1	2	2
Cream .. .. .			1	26	10
Fruit Juice .. .. .		1	-	3	10
Fish .. .. .			3	16	1
Spaghetti .. .. .		2	-	27	11
Macaroni .. .. .			2	19	-
Syrup .. .. .				15	-
Semolina .. .. .			1	22	-
Tapioca .. .. .			1	11	-
Frozen Foods .. .. .			1	8	7
Totals ..	4	9	-	16	3

294 tins Baby Food; 36 Sponge Puddings; 16 Pies, 10 doz. Bars Chocolate.

#### Food Inspection - General

There were few complaints regarding unsound food during the year. However, whilst certain of these were not justified complaints (e.g. stale bread or old meat), there was no case where health was endangered, and an informal caution was sufficient in these instances.

The food premises are visited regularly, and the standard of hygiene is generally very good, as is also the hygiene consciousness of the food handling personnel.

The following is a list of all food shops in the district, and details of visits made during the year:-

	No. of Premises	No. of Visits
Bakehouses .. .. .	2	5
Butchers' Shops .. .. .	25	48
Butchers' Stalls (Market) .. .. .	5	55
Canteens .. .. .	23	11
Confectioners and Sweet Shops .. .. .	25	15
Food Factories .. .. .	6	6
Fried Fish Shops .. .. .	18	25
Fish Merchant (Market Stall) .. .. .	1	55
Greengrocers and Fruiterers .. .. .	16	32
Grocers - General .. .. .	51	66
Ice Cream - Retailers and Vans .. .. .	54	34
Market Stalls - Miscellaneous Foods .. .. .	19	96
Mobile Traders .. .. .	35	29
Public Houses and Clubs .. .. .	41	16
Restaurants and Snack Bars, etc. .. .. .	8	32
Slaughterhouse .. .. .	1	44
Wholesale Food Premises .. .. .	2	41
Miscellaneous Food Visits .. .. .	-	54

### Market

The Council-owned open market continues to be very popular, and opens on Tuesdays and Fridays. There is a wide variety of stalls selling all types of general goods, in addition to a section devoted to Food Stalls. These comply with the Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles Regulations, 1966, in all respects, and are permanent in structure.

The Authority were one of the first to provide permanent food stalls with stainless steel sink and hot and cold water supply, and have always endeavoured to maintain a high standard. It is regrettable that so many open and street markets fail in this respect, and yet require the food shops to comply with Food Hygiene Regulations. Surely such requirements are all the more necessary in the open air market.

The market is inspected weekly as a minimum, and 182 visits were made for this purpose. Food hygiene standards continue to be good.

### Milk Sampling

Raw milk (i.e. farm bottled milk) is sampled regularly as a routine, and checked for evidence of Brucellosis organisms, and the cleanliness of the milk (methylene blue test). These tests are carried out by the Public Health Laboratory in Bradford.

Of the 66 raw milk samples taken during the year, 1 failed the methylene blue test, and the necessary steps were taken to improve handling methods, etc. at the dairy. 7 of the samples

proved to be positive for Brucellosis on culture, and as a result 181 individual cow samples were taken from local herds, and the affected cows eventually removed from the herds. In the cases where the milk originated outside the Urban District, the Health authorities concerned were informed and carried out this follow-up procedure.

During 1970, Section 106 (4) of the Agriculture Act, 1970, was enacted, which makes it an offence to sell otherwise than for slaughter an animal which is known to be a Brucellosis reactor, and fines of over £400 are applicable. It is hoped that this section will minimise the traffic in affected cows from one district to another, which results in spreading the infection to uncontaminated herds in many cases.

Certain local dairymen are now applying to have their herds designated as Brucellosis Accredited herds, and in this way an increasing pool of Brucellosis-free cattle should be built up in the next few years.

In addition to the samples of raw milk, 1 sample of sterilised milk was taken, and found to be satisfactory as regards efficiency of heat treatment.

Milk dealers generally are most co-operative with the Inspectors, and no prosecution under the Milk and Dairies legislation was necessary during 1970.

#### Ice Cream

There are no manufacturers of ice cream within the Urban District, and the 47 registered shops sell only pre-wrapped ice cream. In addition, 15 vans are registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951. The premises and vans are inspected from time to time, and a high standard of cleanliness is maintained.

#### Food Hawkers

At the year end, 37 food hawkers were registered under the West Riding County Council (General Powers) Act, 1951, although probably not all are still hawking food in this district. Details of these registrations are as follows:-

- 7 dealing in Bread and Confectionery
- 12 dealing in Greengrocery, including Fish
- 15 dealing in Ice Cream
- 1 dealing in General Foodstuffs
- 2 dealing in Meat and Meat Products

Generally, most food hawkers' vehicles comply with the appropriate requirements of the Food Hygiene (Market Stalls and Delivery Vehicles) Regulations, 1966, and those found not to, are soon brought up to standard after an initial approach.



## PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES

### Refuse Collection

The Department is responsible for the administration of the Cleansing services in the district, with the exception of street cleansing. This includes the collection and disposal of refuse, together with the collection of industrial, trade, market refuse, pails, etc., which continues to operate satisfactorily. Waste paper and other salvageable materials are also collected and this year, under the Civic Amenities Act, a further burden has fallen upon the Department in the removal of bulky material from houses and waste lands, and also the removal of abandoned vehicles.

Refuse for the most part continues to be moved on a 7-day cycle, and this is only extended following holidays or periods of illness.

The turnover of labour in this field has been slightly less than in the previous year. This movement of labour is inevitable and is expected, but this tends to disrupt the smooth working of the system. Maximum efficiency can only be obtained with a settled and regular team.

The low basic wage is, to a great extent, responsible for much of the movement of labour. Fortunately this low rate is being gradually improved, but there is no doubt that the bin bonus scheme has been greatly responsible for the slowing down of the movement of labour. This, in my opinion, has been a great success. There are some disadvantages, but the advantages of finishing the rounds on time, even with depleted teams, reduction in overtime etc., have far outweighed the disadvantages, which have been largely due to the desire to complete the rounds and have resulted in the failure to collect overspill and the separate collection of waste paper.

The bonus has increased the basic wage by between 15% and 28%, but I feel the minimum bonus could, if desired, be increased to not less than 20%

The industrial dispute was most unfortunate; it came about due to the low basic wage of certain sections of the manual workers. Although the basic wage of the employees of the Cleansing Department was low, it was by no means the lowest, and yet the members of the Cleansing Department were called out on strike, and the lower paid worker allowed to continue his work. It was therefore the members of the Cleansing Department who lost not only three weeks' wages, but also an accumulative bonus. There was no wonder that the employees had no heart for the strike. It would, however, have been a different matter if all manual workers had been involved and not only a section.

Fortunately, the backlog of work was cleared very speedily and with the co-operation of the ratepayers generally in collecting additional storage sacks and utilising the tip, which was kept open at all times in order that the nuisance and offensive accumulation was kept down to a minimum. This is the first strike in which I have been involved; let us hope it is the last.

The paper sack system of refuse collection has been further extended, and for the most part continues to work satisfactorily, although complaints have been made due to interference by animals; these with very few exceptions are cats and dogs. When the scheme was introduced, wall mounted and free standing head units were used. These are slowly being phased out, and any new introductions are with the plastic bin and liner. These, we find, give much greater

satisfaction, and also increase productivity due to reduced weight and travelling time. The sack system now covers approximately 12% of the entire district.

The metal bins, mostly of 2½ cu.ft. capacity, are being replaced with the 3¼ cu.ft. plastic bin, and here again we find this an improvement, but it is essential that no hot ash be placed in the bin. With the introduction of smoke control and increasing use of the gas fire, this problem with hot ash is almost non-existent. This, however, raises a further problem. The refuse contained tends to get lighter and bulkier, and in this respect the larger bin is a great advantage. If, however, this trend continues, both larger refuse sacks and bins will have to receive consideration.

With the progress of slum clearance continuing, the number of communal ashbin places is rapidly disappearing, and it is pleasing to see the end of this type of accommodation.

The bulk containers have increased and are used mostly in connection with high and 5-storey flats, and in industry. There are approximately 20 now in use, and they are emptied twice per week. The conditions vary in the flats, but there is no doubt that in the high flats where a warden is directly responsible for the cleanliness of the accommodation, the complaints of chute blockages are almost non-existent, and the conditions in all respects are vastly superior.

Details of refuse collection throughout the year are set out in the following table:-

Vehicle	Ashbins	Pails	Loads	Tons	Cwts.
S. & D. No. 14 .. .. .	12,420	828	170	188	-
Dennis No. 15 .. .. .	121,779	-	475	1,427	-
S. & D. No. 16 .. .. .	25,975	164	868	893	10
Dennis No. 17 .. .. .	122,759	16	491	1,475	-
Karrier No. 19 .. .. .	31,801	1,470	418	548	-
Bedford .. .. .	-	-	80	30	-
Totals ..	312,734	2,478	2,502	4,561	10

### Transport

The Department continues to operate five vehicles on refuse collection, four of which are in regular use, the fifth being used as a spare or brought in as and when required.

The Bedford waggon, used mostly on the tip for conveying covering material, continues to give valuable service.

Unfortunately during the year, the Karrier (13) Bantam Dual Tip, purchased in 1961, had to be taken off the road after an accident in Tuel Lane, when the braking system failed. Fortunately, no one was hurt. The body of this vehicle was built on to a second-hand chassis and cab, and is now continuing in service.



The S.D. (1962) Fore and Aft refuse vehicle was taken out of service towards the year end, and this has not yet been replaced. The Department is now without a spare vehicle.

The vehicles which are now operated by the Department, together with the duties on which they are employed, are set out in the following table:-

No.	Make	Year of Purchase	Capacity	Service
13	Karrier Bantam (dual tip) (taken out of service April)	1961	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage.
14	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press) (taken out of service September)	1962	18 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
15	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1964	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
16	S. & D. Rear F. & A. Loader (with power press)	1965	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage, Trade Refuse.
17	Dennis Paxit (continuous loader)	1969	25 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection.
18	Bedford	1969		Tip work, Civic Amenities Act.
19	Karrier Bantam (dual tip)	1970	11 cu.yds.	Refuse Collection, Salvage.
	J.C.B. Shovel	1963	Shovel	Refuse Disposal.

#### Accidents

During the year the vehicles have been involved in 5 accidents, as follows:-

Dennis No. 15	.. ..	3
Dennis No. 17	.. ..	1
Karrier No. 19	.. ..	1

There has been a reduction in the number of accidents, and generally these have been unavoidable, due to the vehicles negotiating narrow unmade roads, and so damaging dry stone walls, gate posts, etc. It is rather surprising that more accidents are not caused by reason of the fact of the thoughtless, indiscriminate parking on narrow roads, forcing Council vehicles on to pavements, contributing to accidents and damage to footpaths, etc. I feel that the drivers are to be congratulated in keeping their accidents down to such a low figure.



## Municipal Ashbin Scheme

This scheme has, over the years, been invaluable to the Authority. It was commenced in 1949 as a bin hire scheme, and later adopted as a Municipal Ashbin Scheme.

The scheme has allowed the Local Authority to standardise on its containers, and also to experiment with different types of containers, the introduction of paper sack schemes of different types, to the benefit of the Authority. The scheme has obviated the necessity for the service of notice for replacement bins, and this is carried out as a routine matter.

During the year 227 bins have been replaced.

## Trade Refuse

The scale of charges for the collection of trade refuse has remained unchanged. One bin of refuse is still collected free of charge, with a charge of 5p per bin for each additional bin or part thereof.

The trade refuse for the most part is collected once per week, with the exception of the more objectionable refuse from the slaughterhouse, market, fish shops, etc., and this is collected twice per week.

With the continued emphasis and extension of smoke control areas the industrialists, who have made every effort to comply with the Orders, are finding increasing difficulties in disposing of industrial waste by burning, and consequently the Local Authority is being called upon to remove ever increasing quantities of this type of refuse.

The total amount of trade and industrial refuse removed during the year has realised approximately £750.

## Refuse Disposal

The method of refuse disposal is 100% controlled tipping at Milner Royd. It is most unfortunate that all the refuse is not covered daily, but this is due to the great shortage of covering material. The sides, for the most part, are blinded daily but complete covering takes place weekly.

The tipping area is filling at a considerable rate, firstly due to the continued presence of bulky domestic refuse and secondly by contractors and industrialists. The present site will last no longer than a further three years. Already about half the tip is ready for levelling, grading and soiling, and it is hoped that this will be completed during 1971.

During the year there has been an increasing demand for tipping space by specialist waste disposal firms, using large 6 cu.yd. bulk containers. A very limited use of the tip has been given to one of these contractors, but the tipping charges have been substantially increased.

There has been no serious nuisance from rat or cricket infestation, and apart from a number of fires deliberately started by teenagers, there has been no nuisance from the disposal site.

A part of the tip is open at all times for the use of the general public.

In my last report I referred to the enquiries being made to local industrialists regarding their interest in the provision of a small incinerator for use in connection with trade and industrial waste. The response was disappointing and the project abandoned.

With the tipping space available now being strictly limited, I suggested that the time was fast approaching when the Authorities in the Calder Valley could usefully get together to discuss the future of refuse disposal generally. It was pleasing to note that at the beginning of the year an informal meeting was held at Halifax, when all Authorities from Todmorden to Brighouse, including the County Borough of Halifax, were invited to discuss refuse disposal. During the year a number of meetings were held, when the problems of each Authority were outlined, and it was quite evident from the information available from the Authorities, with perhaps Halifax excepted, that tipping space was becoming increasingly scarce and difficult to obtain, and some alternative method of disposal should be considered. A number of meetings were held, and by the end of the year the Authorities had agreed to Consultants being appointed, and their terms of reference for a feasibility study to be invited.

### Salvage

The salvage returns show a slight decrease in tonnage over the previous year, the drop being approximately 6 tons, but there has been an increase in income of approximately £125. This has been due to the fact that whilst there has been quite a substantial decrease in the mixed paper, there has been an increase in kraft paper, which has a greater financial return.

The return is reasonable, but there is no doubt that much more waste paper is available, provided that the crews will take the trouble to separate the paper which is put out for collection. As I mentioned in the Refuse Collection of this report, perhaps one of the disadvantages of the bonus scheme is the desire to finish early, which may mean the neglect of collection of waste paper.

Details of the salvage recovered in 1970 are set out in the following table:-

Materials Salvaged	T	C	Q	£
Mixed Paper .. .. .	85	11	-	876.78
Fibreboard .. .. .	32	5	-	377.00
Newspapers .. .. .	40	11	-	506.88
Kraft Sacks .. .. .	40	2	-	483.20
Totals ..	198	9	-	2,243.86

## Civic Amenities Act, 1967

The sections of this Act administered by the Health Department are those dealing with the indiscriminate dumping of refuse in unauthorised places, and the removal of abandoned motor vehicles.

The Council tip at Meareclough is open at all times for the deposit of bulky refuse, or refuse in excess of that normally collected weekly. Any householder taking such refuse to the tip does so free of charge, and in addition any bulky refuse is removed by special collection on contacting the Department. This service is also free of charge in the majority of cases.

Despite these services and facilities, which are widely used and appreciated, and the publicity given to them, there are still some people who persist in dumping refuse on any piece of public or private land. Such places used for this purpose are often in inaccessible positions along stretches of woodland or moorland, which are continually spoiled by such illicit dumping. This is despite the fact that there are extremely heavy penalties for this offence. During the year, 20 such dumps and accumulations were cleared.

As a result of formal and informal procedure under the Act, 21 abandoned vehicles have been removed from open spaces, either by the person responsible or a local scrap merchant. The Council has an agreement with this merchant, and the removal is carried out promptly, at no charge to the Local Authority.

By immediate action in this manner, we have managed to overcome the problem of dumped cars in this area, but the increase in the number of "non-runners", usually neither taxed nor insured, which cannot strictly be classed as abandoned, may cause some concern and problems in the future.

## GENERAL ITEMS

### Petroleum Acts and Orders

Routine inspection of petrol stations and petroleum installations was made prior to the issuing of the licences. This work has also been carried out in conjunction with the Fire Prevention Officer of the West Riding County Council.

During the year 17 inspections have been carried out and the following licences have been issued:-

Storage of Petroleum	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	29
Storage of Cellulose Paint and Petroleum Mixtures	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	..	6



## Rodent Control

The work of rodent control is divided between a part-time operative, who deals with both business and commercial premises, and the cleansing foreman, who is responsible for the remainder. In the absence of one or the other, then this work is carried out by the inspectors.

During the year 215 dwellinghouses, 78 business premises, 7 Local Authority properties and 8 agricultural properties have been inspected and treated as necessary. The infestations were of a minor nature for the most part.

The number of treatments carried out at the various premises during the year are set out as follows:-

Local Authority properties	..	..	..	..	..	27
Private dwellings	..	..	..	..	..	540
Business premises	..	..	..	..	..	312
Agricultural properties	..	..	..	..	..	15

Mention was made in last year's report of the increase in the number of feral (wild) pigeons. Their numbers had built up to such an extent during the present year, complaints and nuisances caused by these pigeons becoming more numerous, that steps were taken to carry out treatments for their eradication. The infestations generally were found to be in heavily populated residential areas, due to local ratepayers having established a feeding pattern by the continual throwing out of bread. Much time and work was involved in the earlier hours of the morning in breaking their existing feeding patterns and establishing new ones for the purpose of their eradication.

In conjunction with the Ministry of Agriculture, Fisheries and Food, and the R.S.P.C.A. Inspectorate, these treatments were carried out efficiently and smoothly, with only a small minority of the public at large being aware of this action. This reveals itself in the fact that no hostile opposition or complaints were forthcoming in the areas where these treatments were carried out. This problem will no doubt remain with us as their numbers again multiply within the next few years, when further treatments for eradication will no doubt have to be carried out.

## Scrap Metal Dealers Act, 1964

Under the above Regulations, the following scrap metal dealers are on the register:-

- (1) Messrs Bradley & Holmes, 16 Arden Road, Halifax.  
trading from (a) Causeway Holme Works, Sowerby Bridge.  
(b) The Goods Sidings, Sowerby Bridge Station.
- (2) Mr. J. Smith, Thorpe Mills, Triangle,  
trading from Thorpe Mills.









